

What is claimed is:

1. A locking assembly for use with electrical switching apparatus including a housing with an opening and an operating handle protruding from said opening, said locking assembly comprising:

a first locking element pivotally connected to and extending away from said operating handle in a first direction, in order to engage a portion of said housing, said first locking element including a first aperture extending therethrough;

a second locking element pivotally connected to and extending away from said operating handle in a second direction opposite the first direction of said first locking element, in order to engage another portion of said housing, said second locking element including a second aperture extending therethrough, said second aperture corresponding to the first aperture of said first locking element; and

a lock extending through said first and second apertures, in order to lock said first and second locking elements, respectively, thereby restraining movement of said operating handle.

2. A locking assembly for use with electrical switching apparatus including a housing with an elevated portion having a top, two sides, opposing first and second edges and an opening, said opening including a first end and a second end, said electrical switching apparatus also including an operating handle protruding from said opening, said operating handle moving between a first position proximate the first end of said opening and a second position proximate the second end of said opening, said locking assembly comprising:

a lock having a shackle;

a first locking element including at least one first aperture receiving the shackle of said lock, said first locking element structured to engage one of said opposing first and second edges of the elevated portion of said housing, in order to restrain movement of said operating handle;

a second locking element including at least one second aperture corresponding to the at least one first aperture of said first locking element, said second locking element being structured to engage at least a portion of the top of the

elevated portion of said housing, in order to further restrain movement of said operating handle; and

means for pivotally connecting each of said first and second locking elements to said operating handle.

3. The locking assembly of claim 2 wherein said lock has a locked position; and wherein said lock is disposed in said locked position when the shackle of said lock is inserted through said first and second apertures of said first and second locking elements, respectively, thereby preventing unauthorized operation of said operating handle.

4. The locking assembly of claim 2 wherein said operating handle has an external end with a third aperture extending therethrough; wherein each of said first and second locking elements further includes a fourth aperture corresponding to said third aperture; and wherein said means for pivotally connecting is a pivot member extending through the fourth apertures and structured to extend through the third aperture, in order to pivotally connect said first and second locking elements to said operating handle.

5. The locking assembly of claim 2 wherein said first locking element has an L-shape corresponding to at least a portion of the elevated portion of said housing.

6. The locking assembly of claim 5 wherein said L-shaped first locking element includes a first portion and a longer second portion extending perpendicularly from said first portion; and wherein said first portion includes an edge-engaging portion structured to engage a corresponding one of said opposing first and second edges of the elevated portion of said housing.

7. The locking assembly of claim 6 wherein the longer second portion of said L-shaped first locking element includes a gap between the top of said elevated portion of said housing when said edge-engaging portion engages the corresponding one of said first and second edges of the elevated portion of said housing.

8. The locking assembly of claim 6 wherein said second locking element is structured to correspond with at least a portion of each of the longer second portion of said L-shaped first locking element and the top of the elevated portion of

said housing; and wherein said second locking element further includes a top-engaging portion structured to engage a corresponding portion of the top of the elevated portion of said housing.

9. The locking assembly of claim 2 wherein said first locking element has a T-shape with a portion thereof corresponding to at least a portion of the elevated portion of said housing.

10. The locking assembly of claim 9 wherein said T-shaped first locking element includes a first portion and a longer second portion; wherein said first portion has two ends and an intermediate region; wherein said longer second portion extends perpendicularly from the intermediate region of said first portion, in order to separate said first portion into symmetrical first and second edge-engaging portions each of which is structured to engage a corresponding one of said opposing first and second edges of the elevated portion of said housing.

11. The locking assembly of claim 10 wherein the longer second portion of said T-shaped first locking element includes first and second gaps between the top of the elevated portion of said housing when said symmetrical first and second edge-engaging portions engage the corresponding opposing first and second edges, respectively, of the elevated portion of said housing.

12. The locking assembly of claim 10 wherein said second locking element is structured to correspond with each of the longer second portion of said T-shaped first locking element and the top of the elevated portion of said housing; and wherein said second locking element further includes a top-engaging portion structured to engage a corresponding portion of the top of the elevated portion of said housing.

13. The locking assembly of claim 12 wherein said T-shaped first locking element is adapted to rotate between a first locked position and a second locked position, in order to restrain movement of said operating handle between the first position and the second position, respectively, of said operating handle.

14. The locking assembly of claim 13 wherein said at least one first aperture of said T-shaped first locking element is a shackle-receiving aperture; wherein said corresponding at least one second aperture of said second locking element includes corresponding first and second shackle-receiving apertures; wherein

the shackle-receiving aperture of said T-shaped first locking element corresponds with the first shackle-receiving aperture of said second locking element when said first edge-engaging portion of said T-shaped first locking element engages the corresponding first edge of the elevated portion of said housing, and, said top-engaging portion of said second locking element simultaneously engages a corresponding portion of the top of the elevated portion of said housing, respectively, in order to receive the shackle of said lock and restrain movement of said operating handle from said first locked position; and wherein the shackle-receiving aperture of said T-shaped first locking element corresponds with the second shackle-receiving aperture of said second locking element when said second edge-engaging portion of said T-shaped first locking element engages the corresponding second edge of the elevated portion of said housing, and, said top-engaging portion of said second locking element simultaneously engages a corresponding portion of the top of the elevated portion of said housing, respectively, in order to receive the shackle of said lock and restrain movement of said operating handle from said second locked position.

15. An electrical switching apparatus comprising:

a housing including at least one elevated portion having a top, two sides, opposing first and second edges and at least one opening, said at least one opening having a first end and a second end;

at least one pair of separable contacts;

an operating mechanism including at least one operating handle structured to open and close said separable contacts, each of said at least one operating handle protruding from a corresponding one of said at least one opening of said at least one elevated portion of said housing and moving between a first position proximate the first end of said corresponding one of said at least one opening and a second position proximate the second end of said corresponding one of said at least one opening; and

an integral locking assembly comprising:

a lock having a shackle;

a first locking element including at least one first aperture receiving the shackle of said lock when said first locking element engages a

corresponding one of said opposing first and second edges of at least one of said at least one elevated portion of said housing, in order to restrain movement of said at least one operating handle;

a second locking element including at least one second aperture corresponding to the at least one first aperture of said first locking element and receiving the shackle of said lock when said second locking element engages at least a portion of the top of at least one of said at least one elevated portion of said housing, in order to further restrain movement of said at least one operating handle; and

means for pivotally connecting each of said first and second locking elements to at least one of said at least one operating handle.

16. The electrical switching apparatus of claim 15 wherein each of said at least one operating handle has an external end with a third aperture extending therethrough; wherein each of said first and second locking elements further includes an fourth aperture corresponding to said third aperture; and wherein said means for pivotally connecting is a pivot member extending through the fourth apertures and structured to extend through the third aperture, in order to pivotally connect said first and second locking elements to at least one of said at least one operating handle.

17. The electrical switching apparatus of claim 15 wherein said first locking element has an L-shape including a first portion and a longer second portion extending perpendicularly from said first portion; wherein said first portion includes an edge-engaging portion engaging a corresponding one of said opposing first and second edges of at least one of the at least one elevated portion of said housing; and wherein said second locking element includes a top-engaging portion engaging a corresponding portion of the top of at least one of the at least one elevated portion of said housing.

18. The electrical switching apparatus of claim 15 wherein said first locking element has a T-shape including a first portion and a longer second portion; wherein said first portion has two ends and an intermediate region; wherein said longer second portion extends perpendicularly from the intermediate region of said short portion, in order to separate said first portion into symmetrical first and second edge-engaging portions each of which is structured to engage a corresponding

one of said opposing first and second edges of at least one of the at least one elevated portion of said housing; and wherein said second locking element includes a top-engaging portion structured to engage a corresponding portion of the top of at least one of the at least one elevated portion of said housing.

19. The electrical switching apparatus of claim 18 wherein said T-shaped first locking element pivots between a first locked position and a second locked position, in order to restrain movement of at least one of said at least one operating handle between the first position and the second position, respectively, of said at least one of said at least one operating handle; wherein said at least one first aperture of said T-shaped first locking element is a shackle-receiving aperture; wherein said corresponding at least one second aperture of said second locking element includes corresponding first and second shackle-receiving apertures; wherein the shackle-receiving aperture of said T-shaped first locking element corresponds with the first shackle-receiving aperture of said second locking element when said first edge-engaging portion of said T-shaped first locking element engages the corresponding first edge of at least one of the at least one elevated portion of said housing, and, said top-engaging portion of said second locking element simultaneously engages a corresponding portion of the top of at least one of the at least one elevated portion of said housing, respectively, in order to receive the shackle of said lock and restrain movement of said at least one operating handle from said first locked position; and wherein the shackle-receiving aperture of said T-shaped first locking element corresponds with the second shackle-receiving aperture of said second locking element when said second edge-engaging portion of said T-shaped first locking element engages the corresponding second edge of at least one of the at least one elevated portion of said housing, and, said top-engaging portion of said second locking element simultaneously engages a corresponding portion of the top of at least one of the at least one elevated portion of said housing, respectively, in order to receive the shackle of said lock and restrain movement of said at least one operating handle from said second locked position.

20. The electrical switching apparatus of claim 15 wherein said electrical switching apparatus is a single-pole circuit breaker; wherein said at least one elevated portion is an elevated portion; wherein said at least one opening is an

opening; wherein said at least one pair of separable contacts is a pair of separable contacts; and wherein said at least one operating handle is an operating handle.

21. The electrical switching apparatus of claim 15 wherein said electrical switching apparatus is a multi-pole circuit breaker; wherein said at least one opening is a plurality of openings; wherein said at least one elevated portion is a plurality of elevated portions; wherein said at least one pair of separable contacts is a plurality of pairs of separable contacts; and wherein said at least one operating handle is a plurality of operating handles.

22. The electrical switching apparatus of claim 21 wherein said means for pivotally connecting is a pivot member connecting each of said operating handles to form a single ganged operating handle.

23. The electrical switching apparatus of claim 15 wherein said electrical switching apparatus is a three-pole circuit breaker; wherein said at least one opening is an opening; and wherein said at least one operating handle is an operating handle.

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